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8. Plans for Cuban May Day Rally: Fidel Castro seems determined to make the May Day rally in Havana a demonstration of strong support for his regime not only by the Cuban masses but also by public sentiment throughout the hemisphere and by the Sino-Soviet bloc.

A parade by the armed forces and militia units is planned to show Cuba's capacity to repel the foreign invasion Castro officials insist is being plotted by "imperialism." Previous plans for a march of a million workers are rumored to have been abandoned because of a bitter fight within the Cuban Labor Confederation (CTC) over the government's endorsement of efforts to purge non-Communist leaders. The Cuban Communist party has taken advantage of this situation to usurp CTC responsibility for organizing the May Day celebration, hoping thus to strengthen its influence with Castro and within the CTC.

Delegations invited from other Latin American countries include liberal leaders--many of them widely respected--who recently signed a "statement of solidarity with the Cuban revolution." Their presence would be used to demonstrate support by nonofficial hemisphere groups and to offset the coolness of most Latin American governments toward Castro and their concern over his rejection of the Rio de Janeiro Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance.

The Cuban Government reportedly is paying transportation and lodging costs for 18 Chinese Communists who will participate in the May Day rally. Along with 73 Soviet visitors and other bloc delegations, the Chinese will probably be given a prominent place in the demonstration.

The American Embassy in Havana is convinced the rally will have a strong anti-US and Communist-line flavor. (b)(3)

9. Brazilian Opinion Shifting Toward Positive View of Cuba: Since 5 April, when opposition presidential candidate Janio Quadros returned from his highly publicized visit to Cuba, there has been a shift in articulate unofficial opinion in Brazil away from almost universal condemnation of Cuba's Castro regime toward an essentially favorable

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"reappraisal," according to the American Embassy in Rio de Janeiro. The chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, a member of the opposition Democratic National Union party who accompanied Quadros to Havana, made a speech on 13 April in which he praised the "authenticity" of the Castro revolution, minimized Communist influence in the regime, and declared that the situation in Cuba is "historically justifiable if not inevitable." On 12 April the important opposition newspaper Jornal do Brasil, formerly critical of Castro, stated that journalists who accompanied Quadros had brought back information so impressive as to suggest that the international wire services have presented a distorted and unfair picture of the Castro regime.

It seems likely that these new public attitudes result from a conscious effort by the pro-Quadros forces to justify the Cuban trip. Quadros' lieutenants have stated privately that the trip was intended to rid Quadros of the "Wall Street lackey" label he acquired in accepting nomination by the socially correct National Democratic Union party; the decision to accept Castro's invitation alienated many conservative backers, however, and also certain labor leaders who viewed it as "one more example of emotional instability." The government's presidential candidate, former War Minister Lott, refused a similar invitation.

A continued press campaign to justify Quadros' trip by justifying the Castro regime could build up pressure on the government to reverse its negative stand on Cuba's proposed "hungry nations" conference. Brazil has been Latin America's strongest holdout against the conference and has apparently persuaded several other governments to refuse. [redacted] (b)(3)

10. [redacted] NR

DELETED TEXT NOT RELEVANT

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